

Cracklin' Static

April 2020 Edition



Breakfast meeting CANCELLED

SNARS NET on DMR – Tuesday 8pm
DMR Talk Group: 31328 SNARS

SNARS Treasury Closing Balances

Account as of	3/28/2002
Operating	\$5,521
Savings	\$9,537
Self Insurance	\$7,348
PayPal	\$2,207
Convention	\$4,295
Total	\$28,907
Net Monthly Income	\$896
Net YTD	\$725
Renewals	32

SNARS Membership as of 3-28: 368

Extra	129	35%
General	117	32%
Technician	105	28%
Advanced	14	4%
No License	0	0%
License Expired	2	1%
Novice	1	0%

SNARS ARRL Members

Regular	207	56%
Life	37	10%

PRESIDENT'S VOICE

President John Byerly, N7ROJ

Email: mtnlion@gmail.com



Hello members!

I hope all of you are well and taking care of yourselves and your loved ones during this crisis. Sadly, the April meeting is cancelled, and we will evaluate each month's meeting as the pandemic crisis unfolds, and the health officials deem necessary.

The Board of Directors is meeting online thanks to Barry K6ST and his Zoom server and account, so the club business is still going on. If this continues, Barry has mentioned that it may be possible to use Zoom to hold a virtual club meeting, which we are going to discuss and potentially move to implement during these tough times. There is also the Telegram SNARS group which you can access from the SNARS webpage. Join us out in cyberspace and on the air, until we can meet in person again.

Douglas Edmondo is working hard with the board to simplify and bring clarity to our bylaws. When we have a finished product, we will be bringing it to you, the members, to vote on.

This is a great time to get the shack organized, try a new mode or band, check in on a net, or check on other amateur operators you know. We are communicators who serve the community. Let's keep that spirit alive!!

If anyone has questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or one of the board members!

Again, stay safe so we can all make it through this together!

73 DE John N7ROJ



PO BOX 7727 Reno NV 89510
Yearly Dues: \$40.00 Individual • \$50.00 Family
775.453.4142 <http://snars.org>

2020 Officers

President.....John Byerly, N7ROJ
Vice-President.....John Miller N7JDM
Treasurer.....Bill Jones, AE7OX
Secretary.....Anthony Marcin, W7XM
DirectorWes Vick, KG7QXE
DirectorJim Shepherd, W6US
DirectorBarry Bettman, K6ST

2020 Staff

Cracklin StaticHowie Holden, WB2AWQ
W7TA TrusteePeter DeBay, KE7VSR
KR7ENO Trustee.....Howie Holden, WB2AWQ
Control OperatorPat Sheehan, W7DED
Youth Involvement.....Barry Bettman K6ST
NVQSO Coordinator.....Jim Shepherd, W6US
HistorianJon Fox, KF7KTC
Tech Team LeadPat Sheehan, W7DED
MembershipKim Farnham, KG7TMA
PIOGreg Krantz, NT7Q
VE Coordinator.....Bill Nichols, NN7K
Meeting GreeterBill Jones, AE7OX
Noon Net ManagerWes Vick, KG7QXE
DMR Net ManagerAnthony Marcin, W7XM
Reno Ham SwapVacant
WebmasterErik Andreasen, K6CZH
Club Sales Manager.....Julie Dodge, N7JWL
Recording Secretary.....Doug Edmondo, W7DBE

Cracklin Static Publication

Editor: Howie Holden WB2AWQ - holden7471@msn.com

Cracklin' Static is the Newsletter of, and sponsored by the Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society. Published the week before meetings. Opinions expressed herein are those of the editors and contributors and should not be considered as official expressions of the Club Officers, Staff or Club Members, or as endorsements by same.

Material for publication may be edited to enhance readability or to save space. We reserve the right to use whatever font size, line spacing or other tools as may be required to publish this Newsletter. **Deadline for input to the newsletter is 1500 hours on the Sunday** prior to the 1st Saturday of each month.

SNARS Wide Area Linked System

147.030 + PL 123.0	Sparks, Fernley, Fallon	Online
147.210 + PL 100.0	Reno, Sparks	Online
147.150 + PL 123.0	Lake Tahoe, Truckee, Carson	Online
146.925 -?L 123.0	Lovelock, Fallon	Online
146.670 -?L 123.0	Winnemucca	Online
444.875 + PL 100.0	Yerington	Online
444.125 + PL 123.0	Reno Sparks	Offline

DMR Systems

444.925 + CC 1	Reno, Sparks	Online
444.825 + CC 1	Dayton, Fallon, Carson	Online
443.925 + CC 1	Lake Tahoe, Truckee, Carson	Online
443.950 + CC 1	Incline Village	Online
442.875 + CC 1	Sparks, Fernley, Fallon	Online
442.850 + CC 1	Downtown Reno	Online
441.950 + CC 1	Fallon, Fernley	Offline

Fusion Systems

146.610 - PL 123.0	Reno, Carson, Dayton	Online
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IRLP / EchoLink Systems

147.300 + PL 123.0	Reno, Sparks	Online
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Packet / APRS

145.050 - RNO	Reno, Carson, Dayton	Online
145.050 - ROSE	Lake Tahoe, Truckee, Carson	Online
144.390 - TOULON	Lovelock, Fallon	Online

Standalone Systems

147.390 + PL 100.0	Reno, Carson, Dayton	Online
443.075 + PL 123.0	Reno, Carson, Dayton	Online
927.0875 + PL 114.8	Reno, Carson, Dayton	Online

 Online  Offline  Not Linked

Thank you to our Sponsors/Supporters



Weekday on the SNARS Linked System

147.030 + PL 123 – Sparks/Fernley
 147.150 + PL123.0 – Lake Tahoe / Truckee
 147.210 + PL 100.0 - Reno
 444.875 + PL 100.0 - Yerington
 146.925 - 123.0 – Lovelock / Fallon
 146.67 – PL 123.0 - Winnemucca

Monday through Friday @ 12:00pm

Open to all amateur radio operators. A general informational net for the amateur radio community of Northern Nevada and Eastern California. Radio Checks and Questions are welcomed.

Nets on the SNARS Linked Systems

147.210 + 100.0 | 147.030 + 123.0 | 147.150 + 123.0
 147.670 – 123.0 | 146.925 – 123.0 | 444.875 + 100.0

ERC Net for NV and Northern CA	Monday @ 9:15pm
N. Western NV ARES Net	Thursday at 7:30pm
Northern Nevada Preppers Net	Wednesday @ 8:00PM
Hospital Net	Friday @ 10:00AM

Nets on IRLP (GSR) System

Repeater: 147.300 + 123.0

Amateur Radio Newline	Monday - 8:00PM
Nevada Skywarn Net	Wednesday - 7:00pm
Nevada State ARES Net	Thursday - 7:00PM

Nets on Simplex/HF

Jefferson Noon Net	7.204 LSB	Daily - 12:00pm
6 Meter Net	50.350 USB	Tuesday – 8:00pm
2 Meter Weak Signal	144.250 USB	Wednesday - 8:00PM
2 Meter Simplex Net	146.500 FM	Thursday – 8:00PM
10 Meter Net	28.350 USB	Sunday – 2:00PM

**SNARS Weekly DMR Net – Tuesdays
 8:00PM**

SNARS Talk Group 31328

Open to Members and Guests. A general information net each week on DMR.

SNARS CALENDAR

**Ham Radio Night at the REOC Wednesday, April 1 is
 CANCELLED**

**SNARS Board Meeting Wednesday April 8,
 Being held virtually on Zoom**

**Next SNARS Breakfast Meeting – Saturday May 2, 8 AM
 Boomtown Casino Hotel Events Center I-80 at Exit 4, Verdi
 Tentative depending on local lockdowns.**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Marc	Roberts	KI7DDW
Scott	Drake	W7GNU
Mark	Tanner	K6CLD
Zachary	Vestal	KM4APP
Al	Norman	KI6CBA
Rodney	Pavlisin	W6RKP
Thomas	Futral	W7THF
Mark	Morgan	KI6JBX

SNARS MEMBER APPRECIATION BBQ / PICNIC MAY 30TH

On Saturday, May 30th, 2020 the Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society will be hosting a member appreciation bbq/picnic at **Bartley Ranch Regional Park**



All SNARS club members are invited to attend and please tell us if you are bringing a guest. Watch for an RSVP sheet to be announced soon, as we have a limit of 100 attendees for this event. The park address is 6000 Bartley Ranch Rd., which is just off Lakeside Dr. south of S. McCarran Blvd. We have reserved the Flying B pavilion for this get-together, with plenty of covered seating and room to visit with each other. We hope for members to take this opportunity to enjoy the beautiful

park setting and meet with other members and make some new acquaintances.

The club will provide burgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, condiments and bottled water. We are asking attendees to provide their own side dishes and drinks. FYI, the park regulations prohibit any alcoholic beverages. Please see the park website for details:

https://www.washoecounty.us/parks/rentals_and_permits/reservable_facilities/flying_b.php

We'll need a few volunteers to help with setup and cleanup and maybe take turn at the grills. More information will be announced as the date draws near.

We are looking forward to having our SNARS members altogether.

73,

John N7JDM <jmil912@gmail.com>

Barry K6ST <k6st@arrl.net>

Co-Chairs for May 30th, 2020 SNARS Membership Appreciation BBQ/Picnic



FLYING B PAVILLION at Bartley Ranch

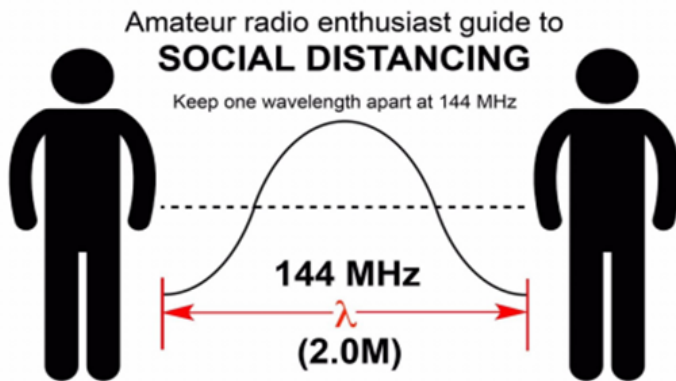
HAM RADIO the Perfect Way to connect with each other during a time of Social Distancing.



What do "ham radio" and "social distancing" have in common with each other? At this time of the COVID-19 Pandemic, we are all aware of the 6-foot rule of physical

distance between each other so not to spread the contagion. But as humans, we need contact with each other as social connections.

Ham Radio is the perfect method to connect with our friends and other ham radio operators around the world, to talk on the air. The Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society supports many nets as a way to connect with each other. SNARS members might not be aware of the net and social connection resources for ham radio. On the SNARS website, there are lots of announcements and nets available which is regularly updated.



Another really good resource is the **WA7BNM Contest Calendar** <https://www.contestcalendar.com/>



This site provides detailed information about amateur radio contests throughout the world, including their scheduled dates/times, rules summaries, log submission information and links to the official rules as published by the contest sponsors.

The Contest Calendar has contests each week through the year.

SNARS has a current list of 11 nets on our website

<https://snars.org/repeaters/nets/>

for Northwestern Nevada and Eastern Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Nets and beyond.

Also on the SNARS net webpage, there is the "Community One Sheet".

Click Here ==> [Community One Sheet](#) to download which includes the List of Nets and Group meetings in the area.

Recently, several hams have asked if SNARS could have additional gatherings on the radio. If your group would like to request usage of our system for a regular net and or one-time event please fill out the usage request form (on the SNARS nets webpage) and return it to the email address on the form.

Of course, anytime the repeater(s) are not being used, you are always welcome to hop on the put out a call to fellow hams to talk and make connections. And there are many non-repeater modes to communicate; simplex; SSB VHF/UHF/HF as well as a digital mode on voice such as DMR, Fusion, DSTAR, etc and data modes of FT8, FT4 using WSJT-X.

In light of the COVID19 pandemic, when families are at home together, we might have a captive audience and opportunity for everyone to get involved in ham radio.



As a club, let's regularly connect with each other, especially on the airwaves, as that is a great use for ham radio operators.

In addition, you can connect to each other through SNARS social media on Telegram <https://t.me/joinchat/C3GS2z-kSWJkIDJfN8Nnlg> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/snars.w7ta>

73,

Barry K6ST k6st@arrl.net - SNARS Board Member & ARRL Nevada Section Youth Coordinator

Wes KG7QXE wbvick@charter.net - SNARS Board Member & SNARS Noon Net Manager

SIERRA NEVADA
Amateur Radio Society

THE NAME OF THE GAME

Jim Shepherd, W6US nvjims@gmail.com

HAM PROJECTS

Since we have social distancing and plenty of time at home, here are some ham radio projects that need your attention this time of year.

Since you will probably be doing some digging and planting in the garden, why not plant a subterranean 160 meter antenna? You can plant the insulated wire about 6" below grade and it can be installed all around the house and garden as long as the wires do not cross over each other. If that snoop HOA manager asks what the wire around all the flower beds is for, you can just mention that it keeps the dogs, cats, and vermin from destroying your property value-increasing landscaping and makes your grass grow greener... You can hide end-fed, dipoles, off-center-fed, or loops and with the appropriate balun and a good tuner, you can finally get on 160 meters. It may benefit by soaking the ground which will limit your best operations to your assigned watering days.

Lightning safety is very important to keep the equipment in your shack, and the shack itself in good condition. You can make improvements by shortening all that coax coming into your radio. Making all of them about 2' shorter than needed will provide excellent protection. Don't worry about the lack of direct connections, after all, the radio signals may have come half way around the world so that 2' additional air gap from the end of the coax to the radio shouldn't be much of a problem. Be sure to attach the shields of the coax all to a good ground to prevent arcing. This will also reduce the noise floor in your receiver, and you will have best results on transmit with less than a watt.

There have been a lot of stories recently about the dirt and germs on your smart phone, and your handheld radio is no better. If your radio is waterproof, you can wash it with the laundry following your manufacturer's instructions. Placing it in a fluffy sock will help protect it from the banging around it will get. Otherwise you can just put it in a ziplock bag and use it that way. If you do that you will need to get used to the reports of muffled audio and crackling noises. Wearing a mask and gloves will also help protect you from that dirty, dirty radio. Your mic in the shack and your headset may also need cleaning especially after QSOs on 14.313.

Boat anchors need some special attention. First of all you need to clean out the stale air in all of the big variable capacitors. This can be done by actually changing frequencies from the

usual medical problem ragchew net frequencies and then blowing them out with canned air. AM rigs with 20+kHz of bandwidth are especially prone to having this problem. A little application of the special **Wouff Hong** Frequency Grease to all of the rotating shafts and bearings in the radio will make it easier to make contacts with worldwide hams on other frequencies. Be careful not to get any lube on the nut on the front of the mic as that can cause all sorts of distortion and bad audio.

It is very important that you test all fuses on your equipment annually as they are the first line of defense against short circuits. While wearing welders gloves, goggles, and a face shield, carefully hook the fuses across a large 12Volt battery. If they flash, make a large spark, or even make a 'pop' sound, they were good. You can now install fresh spares in their place with the same ratings, and save those retired ones in a jar in a place of honor in your shack.

Finally, you need to coat all of your antennas with Elmer's Ether Wax. You rub this all over the wires, aluminum tubing and connections on the antennas and buff with a microfiber cloth. This helps the radio waves slide off the radiating surfaces yet it is sticky enough to capture those signals from afar for better reception. The salesman said that it will improve your signal by 4 S units and the received signals by 2 S units while protecting the antenna from the weather and noise. This is indeed a miracle product, but it is hard to find as it seems to be hoarded by a few Big Guns.

April is a good time for these projects and it is best to get started on the First and don't foolishly neglect this essential work!



(Which one is the Wouff Hong? answer on pg 12)

SNARS LOGO ITEMS

This year we are celebrating our 50th year by providing many ways to commemorate this occasion by imprinting our 50th



Stickers \$1.00 Each



16oz Coffee Mugs \$8.00



Hats \$10.00



Club Badge \$15.00

Order at
<http://snars.org/store/badge-order>

Items are available at the monthly meetings, events or online (coming soon) <http://snars.org/store>

MIKE'S MISSIVES CHAPTER FIFTY

Mike Katz, N7MSK

International Amateur Radio Union

The IARU is the world wide federation of national amateur radio organizations with a membership of over 160 member societies in as many countries and separate territories. The IARU was founded at a meeting in Paris in 1925 as the international representative of the Amateur Radio movement.

There are three Regions: 1:Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Northern Asia. 2. The Americas,3. Asia-Pacific.

Over the years, the IARU has worked hard to provide all radio amateurs new bands at 136kHz,472 kHz, 5MHz,10MHz,18MHz,24MHz and 50MHz, and a European allocation at 70MHz.

The IARU has representation in the working parties of ITU and at World Radiocommunications Conferences. It is also supportive of the development of amateur radio in developing countries.

The above is part of the wide variety of activities they are a part of to support and develop amateur radio.

SHORT TAKES (By Jim Shepherd W6US)

Ham Radio Night: First Wednesday, April 1, 2020 has been CANCELLED due to the REOC being activated and for everyone's health and safety during the Covid19 Pandemic. The May event may also be cancelled—we don't know at this time. We are looking at making some videos available and that will be posted on the SNARS website.

Contest Calendar: There are no major contests in April, but there are a whole bunch of state QSO parties. These states will have theirs this month: Nebraska, Missouri, Mississippi, Louisiana, New Mexico, Georgia, North Dakota, Michigan, and Florida. Texas and Florida will also have Parks on the Air events. You can get the full information at <https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html>

7QP Contest: The 7 call zone QSO Party will be held on May 2, 2020. The contest runs from 0600 until 2400 and will be on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 only. There are categories for Mixed, CW, Digital, and Voice along with power levels, single or multioperator, and rover/mobile. For stations within the 7

call zone, the objective is to work as many other hams as possible including as many states, Canadian provinces, and up to 10 DX countries. For those operating outside of the 7 call zone, they are trying to work as many of the 259 counties in the states. If you really want to have some fun, go out to one of the rural counties here in Nevada and you will become the subject of a pileup as everyone will want you in their log. From here in Reno, your exchange would be "59 NVWAS" (signal report, Nevada (NV) and WAS for Washoe County. The other station would give you the signal report, their 2 letter state or province code, or DX for other countries. For the complete rules, a list of the 259 counties in the 7 call zone and other information go to <http://7qp.org> for more information or contact Jim W6US at nvjims@gmail.com SNARS is a sponsor of this contest and we would like to see all the counties activated. Right now only Pershing and Mineral counties have sign-ups, so there is a lot of the state where you could go or even work from home.

Continued on pg 12....)

NAME THAT RIG

(Answers on page 12)



W7SSB's FUN STUFF

RADIO HISTORY

When we talk about the pioneers of amateur radio we need to talk about operators like **Don Wallace W6AM**. From the days of spark gap to today's SSB and digital modes Don was in the middle of it .

A licensed radio operator by 1912, **Wallace** was chief radio operator for President Woodrow Wilson at the Versailles peace conference after World War I. ... From there, he became perennial champion "collector of countries"--reaching 365 places classified as nations by the American Radio Relay League by 1980.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5iVb-3MHEY>



Ham radio operator Don Wallace stands outside of the former Press Wireless building in Rancho Palos Verdes in this undated photo from the late 1940s. (Photo from Don C. Wallace: W6AM: Amateur Radio's Pioneer.)

https://www.google.com/search?sa=N&rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS864US864&sxsrf=ALeKk02h9NkKKwCfVPhT9BS7uQL5jQd01Q:1585454289839&q=w6am+don+wal-

[lace+history&tbm=isch&source=univ&ved=2ahUKewi1ooO-5b7oAhXVqZ4KHdztC9w4FBCwBHoECAoQAQ&biw=1920&bih=969](https://www.google.com/search?sa=N&rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS864US864&sxsrf=ALeKk02h9NkKKwCfVPhT9BS7uQL5jQd01Q:1585454289839&q=w6am+don+wal-lace+history&tbm=isch&source=univ&ved=2ahUKewi1ooO-5b7oAhXVqZ4KHdztC9w4FBCwBHoECAoQAQ&biw=1920&bih=969) (Editors note: This is a LARGE website!)

Great Pictures Of Don's Station etc.....



Here is some of Don's history many people don't know about.

<http://onetuberadio.com/2015/09/04/don-wallace-w6am-and-wcco-radio/>

His Rancho Palos Verdes Station

The Press Wireless operation ended up playing a major role in military communications during World War II especially in transmitting information from the South Pacific theater. In addition, it allowed war correspondents to send dispatches directly from the front lines back to the U.S. almost instantly for the first time in history.

After the war ended in 1945, ham radio pioneer Don Wallace purchased the Press Wireless station in Rolling Hills from Press Wireless and set about building his "radio ranch" on the site. He operated the site, one of the largest amateur radio stations in the world, with his distinctive opening call, "W6AM, like 6 a.m. in the morning, calling," for 40 years.



W6AM Don Wallace history

I was lucky to work Don when I was a kid when he was on St. Pierre Island FP8AA back in 1962. When I was in the MARS station at Bien Hoa Vietnam I used to hear Don's great signal on 20 meters.

When Don passed away Jan Perkins N6AW wrote a great hard cover book about Don. You can still buy it at HRO <https://www.hamradio.com/detail.cfm?pid=H0-011369>

I bought in the early 90's a big box of Don's rhombic antenna insulators which they all have burn marks on them, HiHi! Also I have bunch of his QSL cards

There are fewer and fewer of the old pioneers of our great hobby left. I want to continue bringing some of this history to the club members in the months and years ahead God willing !

Stay tuned,
Don W7SSB

YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

Originally scheduled for Sat April 25th, now CANCELED



Kids on Big Rigs

· March 12 ·

It fills us with great sadness to report that we have decided to cancel Kids on Big Rigs 2020 due to COVID-19. Please stay tuned for updates for the 2021 event as it will be better than ever. Thank you for your understanding and please feel free to message us with any questions that you might have.

Be safe and wash your hands!

Kids on Big Rigs Staff

Youth Net Control runs SNARS Noon Net

Thanks to our Youth: KJ7IRT McKenzie and KJ7IRS Hunter for being Net Control operators when they are available during vacation and when they are doing remote distance learning at home. What a joy to have new perspectives of Youth in our ham radio hobby.

KJ7IRS Hunter writes:

"I have been a ham radio operator for almost a year, and now during this pandemic, it has helped me more

than ever. Ham radio, is a great resource to help you keep in touch with others. You are also able to talk to others from your own home. This gives me a feeling that all will be okay, because I can talk to others, and they are doing well. Ham radio has changed my life, and it helps with communication now more than ever. I hope others discover what a great thing ham radio is".

KJ7IRT McKenzie says:

"With the difficulties and complications of COVID-19 and social separation, we still have ham radio. Though we are stuck at home, my family and I have been able to keep moderately busy and entertained by enjoying our hobbies, such as ham radio. We were able to spend a good amount of time setting up a new antenna. The antenna also works amazingly, my dad was able to make contacts in Canada. I am not a general class yet, so I can't communicate on the bands he is, but I can study for my general exam, and now, I know what I can do if I get my general license. We also have been able to participate in the noon nets, which we can't participate in during school. We are being safe by keeping a safe distance from others, we can still talk to people by ham radio".

What's your story?

Ham radio operators have goals and dreams. Even during this time of the pandemic, what might you like to share with others?

One thing is for sure; we can all learn a lot from the youth, as well as Elmer them with good habits and knowledge transfer in Amateur Radio for decades and even generations to come.

73,

K6ST Barry k6st@arrl.net

Nevada Section Youth Coordinator

ARRL (American Radio Relay League) arrl.org

The national association for amateur radio

SHORT TAKES (continued from page 5)

DX: There are only a couple of listed DXpeditions this month and they may be cancelled. JW/DC8TM will activate Svalbard April 10-13. There are lots of other stations who might be on the air from their home QTH operating as they are in the same situation that we are with Covid19. More information can be found at <https://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>

FIELD DAY JUNE 26-28, 2020 ---IMPORTANT---SNARS took FIRST PLACE last year in Nevada by almost double the score of the nearest other Nevada station. We hope to do this again this year! We got the main group area down by the boat launch again at Washoe Lake State Park as there are a lot of trees and a bigger shade area. We are going to continue our tradition of feeding the troops who come out and work, and we will have a big Tri-Tip dinner on Saturday Night for everyone. One major problem, Jon Fox, who has been our head chef for the last few years, will be at his other home in DU land (Philippines)... The Kitchen Crew is really the most important part of the weekend as they will keep the operators fat and happy, and that will translate into lots of contacts! We NEED volunteers for this crew—If you are interested, contact W6US at nvjims@gmail.com If we do not get some volunteers for the logistics side of this event by the end of the month,

we will look at cancelling.

PONY EXPRESS RE-RIDE 2020 The 2020 Pony Express Re-ride will be June 3-13 this year and it is eastbound from Sacramento to St. Joseph, MO. With all of the mountain ranges here in Nevada, there is a need for a bunch of operators to handle communications. You will need to use HF, VHF and UHF gear out in the field to be able to help. It will usually require camping out at least overnight during the day or 2 that you will be needed here in Nevada. If you are interested in helping, contact Tom Tobacco, KE7NCJ at his email address smokey@pyramid.net for further information and needed locations for help. A schedule and more information on the Re-Ride can be found at <https://nationalponyexpress.org/annual-re-ride/ham/>



ANNUAL COMMUNICATIONS

Carson Valley, Tahoe, Reno,

NOTE: Plumas ARC always have a need for operators. Go over to some beautiful country and help out the Plumas Amateur Radio Club

ARES NEWS

EVENTS CALENDAR 2020:

Plumas Co.

EVENT 2020	DATE	DATE END	SPONSOR/ORGANIZER	COORDINATOR	CONTACT
ARES Kids on Big Rigs			CANCELLED		
Truckee Meadows Earthday	4/26/20		CERT/ARES Exercise	Bob Miller WA6MTY	wa6mty@gbis.com
Silver State 50/50 race	5/16/20		Silver State Striders	Steve KS6A	ks6a@sbcglobal.net
CERT/ARES Joint Exercise	5/16/20		Washoe CERT	Mike Perry	mperry@washoecounty.us
Indian Valley Century Bicycle Ride	5/24/20		Plumas ARC	Larry Trotter KI6YUK	dltrtoter@sbcglobal.net
Pony Express Re-Ride	6/3/2020	6/13/20	SIERA	Jeff Cauhape K7BCV	j_cauhape@yahoo.com
Lost and Found Gravel Grinder SBTS	6/6/20		Plumas ARC	Larry Trotter KI6YUK	dltrtoter@sbcglobal.net
America's Most Beautiful Bike Ride	6/7/20		Tahoe Amateur Radio Assn	Paul Gulbro, WA6EWV	wa6ewv@juno.com
Truckee Dirt Fondo Bike Ride	6/13/20		John Prouty; Bike Monkey	Bob Miller WA6MTY	wa6mty@gbis.com
Alta Alpina Challenge	6/27/20		Alta Alpina Cycling Club	Jennie Hamiter, KE7YBA	jennehamiter@mac.com
Death Ride	7/11/20		Tahoe Amateur Radio Assn	Paul Gulbro, WA6EWV	wa6ewv@juno.com
Tahoe Rim Trail	7/17/20	7/19/19	Tahoe Mountain Milers	Bob Miller WA6MTY	wa6mty@gbis.com
Running With the Bears	8/15/20		Plumas ARC	Larry Trotter KI6YUK	dltrtoter@sbcglobal.net
Trailblazer Challenge	8/15/20		Make-A-Wish Foundation	Bob Miller WA6MTY	wa6mty@gbis.com
Vegas to Reno Off Road Race	8/12/20	8/15/19	Best in the Desert Racing Assn	Keith KC7HTK	kc7htk@hotmail.com
Tour De Tahoe	9/13/20		Tahoe Amateur Radio Assn	Paul Gulbro, WA6EWV	wa6ewv@juno.com
Reno Air-Races	9/13/20	9/20/19	WC-ARES	Bob Miller WA6MTY	wa6mty@gbis.com
Edible Pedal 100	9/20/20		Sunrise Rotary Club	Bob Miller WA6MTY	wa6mty@gbis.com
Bear Growl Gravel Grinder	9/12/20		Plumas ARC	KJ6CUG	dltrtoter@sbcglobal.net
Stetina Paydirt	9/19/20		John Prouty; Bike Monkey	Bob Miller WA6MTY	wa6mty@gbis.com
Grinduro SBTS	1/4/20		Plumas ARC	Larry Trotter KI6YUK	dltrtoter@sbcglobal.net
ARES Section Emergency Test (SET)	OCT TBD		Washoe EC	Bob Miller WA6MTY	wa6mty@gbis.com
Nevada Day Parade	10/31/20		NV AREA NW DEC	John Abrott KD7NHC	jabrott77@gmail.com , cell 775 790-1739
Sparks Turkey Trot	11/26/20		WC-ARES	Bob Miller WA6MTY	wa6mty@gbis.com

ARES news continued on page 12

FUN STUFF FOR APRIL

Contests for April: There is only one contest of note—not really a major one, but one sponsored by the ARRL. It's the Rookie Roundup, listed first. So I've decided to highlight a few of the lesser known contests, some of the not-so-contest contests. They won't attract the major contest stations, but they can be fun! Check some of them out. Contests in **BOLD** are ARRL or NCJ sponsored, and may qualify for the Gavel Award.

19 Apr 1800 to 19 Apr 2359 3.5-28 ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB
Ph www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup

4 Apr 1400 to 5 Apr 2200 3.5-28 Florida State Parks on the Air
CW Ph www.flspot.org/rules

11 Apr 0000 to 11 Apr 2359 1.8-28 QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party
www.qrparci.org/contests

12 Apr 1200 to 12 Apr 1800 3.5-7 International Vintage Contest
HF CW Ph www.contestvintage.beepworld.it

18 Apr 0600 to 19 Apr 0559 3.5-28 Worked All Provinces of
China DX Contest CW Ph www.mulandxc.org

18 Apr 0800 to 18 Apr 1800 3.5-21 QRP to the Field CW Ph
www.zianet.com/grp/grpttf

18 Apr 1400 to 19 Apr 2000 All Texas State Parks on the Air CW
Ph www.tspot.org/rules

25 Apr 0001 to 26 Apr 2359 28 10-10 International Spring Con-
test www.ten-ten.org

27 Apr 1300 to 28 Apr 0400 1.8-28 QCX Challenge CW
www.grp-labs.com/party.html

See <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2020/April%202020%20Corral.pdf> for a complete list of contests.

If you're not into contests, there's always DX to chase! Well maybe not so much these days!!! Here's the ENTIRE list of the few DX operations going on in April (and I'd check to see if any actually take place...):

Mar 25 To Apr 06 **Bolivia CP6**

Apr 10 To Apr 13 **Svalbard JW**

Apr 17 To Apr 25 **Philippines DU2**

Check out: <https://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>

WHICH IS WHICH? From page 6....

The top one is the Wouff Hong. The other is a Rettysnitch (ouch!)

ARES NEWS (continued from page 11)

APRIL WC-ARES training has been cancelled.

According to QRZ there are 2272 Hams in Washoe County. I need your help!!! (Bob's contact info is below....)

Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES)

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment, with their local ARES leadership, for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes.

Every licensed amateur, regardless of membership in ARRL or any other local or national organization is eligible to apply for membership in ARES. Training may be required or desired to participate fully in ARES. Please inquire at the local level for specific information. Because ARES is an Amateur Radio program, only licensed radio amateurs are eligible for membership. The possession of emergency-powered equipment is desirable but is not a requirement for membership.

• You need to be trained. In order to provide support in the event of an emergency—or even in a non-emergency situation—you need to have the proper training and [licensing](#). Learn more about the ARRL [Emergency Communications Training](#) course.

To join your local ARES organization here are some of the county ARES websites:

Elko County ARES <http://www.nevadahamradio.com/aresraces.html>

Churchill County ARES: <https://www.qsl.net/nv7cc/>

Clark County ARES: <http://www.ccnvares.org/>

Lyon County ARES: <http://lcaresnv.org/>

Washoe County ARES: <http://www.wcares.us/>

Bob Miller WA6MTY

Emergency Coordinator for Washoe County

Amateur Radio Emergency Service

775 843-5952

www.wcares.us

wa6mty@gbis.com

NAME THAT RIG (from page 8)

The **RME** Corporation (Radio Manufacturing Engineers) was started in 1932, in Peoria, Illinois. The company's main thrust was short wave receivers, but they also made a number of accessories for those receivers. Pictured is the **RME VHF-152A** VHF converter. This enabled anyone with an RME (or any other brand receiver) which could be fixed tuned to 7 Mhz, to receive signals on the 11, 10, 6, and 2 meter ham bands, utilizing whatever features—filtering, selectivity, BFO, calibration, etc.—the main receiver possessed, yet gave large physical bandspread to the VHF bands. The **VHF-152A** was first produced in 1947, and used three tubes plus a rectifier for the conversion. While it was a good performer in the day, by modern standards it's pretty dismal. But it represented a big leap forward in VHF receive technology for its time. Other accessories, all packaged in the same cabinet which matched many RME receivers, included a 10-20 meter converter, a 6, 2, and 1.25 meter converter, and preselectors and RF amplifiers (adjuncts to make receivers perform better on higher frequencies). RME disappeared from the ham scene by 1962.

TECH COMMITTEE UPDATE

SNARS REPEATER STATUS April 2020

Pat W7DED reports that thanks to “Miracle March” many of our sites are inaccessible. Peavine and Ophir had been drivable, but they are both now snowed in, and he anticipates a busy summer!



INTIMIDATED BY THE BIG CONTESTS?

Some of us are totally bitten by the contest bug. Some not at all. Some of us simply fear the bigger contests, not wanting to embarrass ourselves, look dumb, or otherwise not fit into the world of real competition contests.

There are many contests which encourage the newer operator, the newcomers among us. So many contests are little more than 5NN NV machine gun exchange like CQWW, or the ARRL Sweepstakes. Going 90 MPH, or 60dB over S9 on SSB with a KW and big beam is well beyond many of us.

I, with my predilection toward tube stuff, personally like the older equipment contests, like the Classic Exchange, or the various Antique Wireless Assn events, or the Novice Rig Roundup. These are more like friendly exchanges than contests, between stations who often know each other, but always welcome the new guy on the block.

But the old stuff doesn't have to be the thing. There are QRP contests pretty much every month, mostly CW or digital, but some voice too, there are slow speed CW events put on by the Straight Key Century Club and others, There are sprints, where the whole thing is over in an hour or so, so you don't

have to leave the XYL high and dry while you play radio. There are always the state QSO parties (including our own NVQSO event, or the 7QP event), in which occasionally even repeaters, allowing newcomers to partake, are used. Special-

ty contests are put on by many countries around the globe. Many of these are low key, perfect for the contest newbie. If you worked for Western Electric, or any company spun off by that rats nest – all the Bell companies, Lucent, etc. – they have operating events throughout the year, to which you would be cordially invited. Other companies have events as well.

A quick look at any Contest Corral in QST, or the WA7BNM Contest Calendar (links below), will reveal a wealth of “not big contests” where you can get a start. A quick look at the January 2020 ARRL Contest Calendar showed 6 QRP, 3 slow speed CW, 4 digital, 2 old equipment, 2 smaller SSB, and one VHF/UHF (besides the ARRL January VHF test) events. And that's pretty much the norm. There's something for almost everyone, all you have to do is check it out and get on the air!WB2AWQ



www.arrl.org/contest-calendar (at the bottom of the page)
<https://www.contestcalendar.com>

LIFE IN THE PHILIPPINES, PART 4

Life is good here on our farm. While most of S.N.A.R.S. members have been bearing up under extended cold, wet and snowy weather, I have been sweating while working in clearing our orchard area, assisting Cecilia's 85 year old mother. I am amazed at how she manages to outwork me every day. She tells me to stop working so hard, because it is "mainit" or hot, and chastises me if I don't quit when she says I should. Included here are some photos of part the orchard area and our main tree crop, called Rambutan, which is not yet in season.



Our youngest son, Jon James Ponciano Cudia Fox, is doing great.



He is 7 months old now, eating semi-solid food, cutting his teeth, and trying to talk. He also wants to walk, but he is not ready for that yet. We had his Christening in early February, and had a catered reception with about 150 people from all over Luzon Island attending.



On the amateur radio scene, there appears to be little activity locally. There is no local group, and I haven't located any local hams. The nearest ones seem to be in the provincial capital of Cabanatuan. Rural life does not allow for much in the way of hobby activities for most people, and the level of income for most families would not allow for the purchase of something not essential to everyday life. I personally hope to be able to set up a communications center and interface with regional public service and government sectors for emergency communications. I will also be working with the Philippine Amateur Radio Association, PARA, which I have written about here previously. We have a location at the northernmost section of the farm where I can build a secure building, and put up the needed antennas for that purpose. But this will need to be a future project, as we have so many other things that need to be done on the farm first.

I have been communicating using Echolink, and one of my QSOs in the U.S. was with Ken, KM6BKU, in Tucson, Arizona. He is a graduate student at the University of Arizona studying geology. We talked about many subjects during the QSO, and he was a bit surprised at my own knowledge of geology. I offered to send him a sample of the ashfall from the Taal volcano eruption in January 12, 2020, for which he was very grateful. Echolink is a very useful tool and communication alternative when you are traveling, and you can't bring a radio with you for one reason or another. You can use it in any country where there are repeaters hooked up to the internet, and no local license requirement is needed. Of course, Echolink works just as good in the U.S. as it does internationally. The app is available for your cell phone. Just look in the appropriate app shop for your phone type. You do have to have a verified amateur radio license to use it, and the verification procedure for U.S. licensees involves knowing your FRN number with the FCC.

That's all for now. I plan I being back in the U.S. beginning in April, so I may make a meeting or two if the COVID-19 situation eases up. 73 to all. Jon - KF7KTC



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2020, 6:15 PM
Via ZOOM

1. Call to order and roll call at 6:05 PM

Board of Directors:

Anthony Marcin, W7XM	P	Barry Bettman, K6ST	P	John Miller, N7JDM	NP
Bill Jones, AE7OX	P	John Byerly, N7ROJ	P	Wes Vick, KG7QXE	P
Jim Shepherd, W6US	P	Doug Edmondo, W7DBE	P		

2. Approval of Minutes - Discussion/Action

A. The board motioned and approved the February BOD meeting minutes.

3. Approval of Agenda - Discussion/Action

A. The board motioned and approved the March BOD meeting agenda

4. Reports

A. President's Report – John discussed contingency plans for meetings, a new location for monthly meetings (Separate topic) and thanked Doug for the By-Law work.

B. Secretary Report

Filing of Tax Exemption Status with State of Nevada Renewal. Waiting to hear back from the State
Membership Status – 379 Members with 4 new

C. Treasurer

1. Financial Report: Bill passed around the bank statements for review. Checking: \$5,564 Savings: \$9,536
Paypal: \$1,611 Conv: \$4,295 Self-Ins: \$7,348
2. Bill mentioned that we have 15 member renewals so far in March.

D. Technical Team – Nothing to report.

E. Control Operators / Trustee – No status

F. Events

1. NVQSO – Jim discussed FT-8 encoding in the logging software and really pushed county ops in upcoming contests
2. Spring Ham Swap – Cabellas is a go, still need volunteers.
3. Field Day 2020 – Really need help – especially with food. Other volunteers also needed.

G. Education & Youth Activities

1. Kid's Day Report – Kids on Big Rigs 4-25 and June Kids day on June 20th the Carson Rail Museum.
2. Ham Radio Night at the REOC – Next meeting is a Mini Contest Academy

H. Noon Net - Noon Net Manager – No status

5. Old Business

- A. Breakfast Meeting Location – Discussed putting out a member survey – Tony is working one up.
- B. Members Only Website – No change.

6. New Business

- A. 7QP Sponsorship – May 2020, Board approved 4 plaques (Same as prior years)
- B. Membership Appreciation BBQ / Picnic – Working on sign-up and information to members.
- C. Draft By-Laws – Reviewed the current draft and Doug took comments to incorporate into the next draft.

7. Public Comments - There were no public comments.

8. Adjournment - Action

- A. Next Meeting: April 8, 2020. Location TBD
- B. Call For Adjournment. Board adjourned at 19:25 ish.